

Pittsburgh, Pa.

April 18, 1940

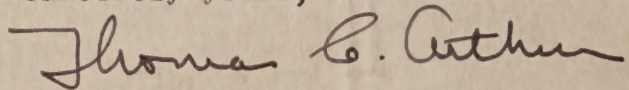
Dear Dr. King:

We are anxious to hear some word from you with regard to the summer's work in Alaska. We appreciate very much the opportunity to go there, and the idea of teaching in the Sitka school is perfectly in harmony with our future plans.

However we must know as soon as possible, since we must make the most of opportunities here, and also in order to fix definitely the wedding date.

We want to thank you for your interest in us, and we sincerely hope we shall be of great service to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thomas C. Arthur". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Thomas C. Arthur

731 Ridge Ave. N. S.

April 23, 1940

Mr. Thomas C. Arthur
731 Ridge Ave. N.S.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Arthur:

I am sorry to tell you that I am afraid the funds will not justify my sending you to Alaska this summer. We have need for a supply, but the funds are too low to help us out.

I want to keep in touch with you, and later on perhaps we can make the dream come true about the Sitka school.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

May 14, 1940

Rev. Mr. Thomas C. Arthur
731 Ridge Ave. N.S., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Thomas:

I sent you a wire this morning asking you if you could spend the summer in Alaska. I have just now received your answer stating: "WE CAN GO TO ALASKA LET US KNOW WHEN GRATEFULLY".

I will send a wire to Seattle for reservations on the first boat. As soon as I get my answer, then I will write you and give you the word.

Here is the proposition that I want to present to you. I want you to go to Ketchikan and serve our native church there through the summer, for a period of at least three months. This will mean that if we get you booked by the first of June, you will want to stay in Ketchikan until the first of September. Since the transportation is quite heavy, it would not be right for you to spend under three months. You will of course, secure a Clergy Certificate, both Eastern and Western. This will cut down the railroad transportation quite a good deal to Seattle. In addition to the transportation expenses that we will be out, I am going to offer you \$75.00 a month. You will have a Manse, which is near the church there in Ketchikan, to live in, so that there will be no rent for you to pay. \$75.00 is certainly a very small amount, but it is more than we are paying our regular summer students. The Ketchikan Church is mainly a native church. They will be most responsive to your leadership in music, and of course they will want you to conduct regular preaching services in the church.

Metlakatka is a native village a few miles away on a boat, and it is possible that you can arrange to go there and supply one or two Sunday nights during the absence of the minister. Rev. Mr. Swogger, the Pastor, is in the States attending the General Assembly.

I shall notify you immediately when I hear about the transportation.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

P.S. I assume we means you and your wife, otherwise no trade.

EBK

May 15, 1940

Mr. Thomas C. Arthur
731 Ridge Ave. N.S.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Arthur:

The telephone conversation this morning was perfectly satisfactory. You will have a reservation on "The Yukon", Room eleven, sailing on May 25th out of Seattle. Of course, you should plan to be in Seattle by the 24th. When you reach Seattle, you may contact Mr. Gene Gould at 1204 American Bank Building, Seattle. Mr. Gould will have your tickets to Ketchikan on the boat. He will also be able to give you information that you will want to have.

Sailing on this boat also will be Mr. and Mrs. David Crawford who are going to Cordova, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Holland Armstrong, who are going to Fairbanks, so you will have a regular missionary journey on this boat.

As soon as you have the information about the transportation from Pittsburgh to Seattle send it in, and we will immediately mail the check. Of course, in the transportation you will want to include the pullman and meals en route. I suppose we can depend on you to take care of your own hotel bill while in Seattle both going and returning. If this is not possible for you to do, let us know.

I am very glad that plans have worked out so that we can use you for the three months of June, July and August in Ketchikan.

Mr. Don Christiansen, formerly pastor at Ketchikan, is now in Tacoma, and I have written to him to meet you in Seattle if possible on your sailing day.

May I express for you and your wife-to-be a sincere hope that the marriage may bring to you satisfaction for your hearts, and a joy unspeakable to your lives, as well as a blessing and benediction in the service of our Master.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

P.S. We are enclosing herewith check in the amount of \$268.40 covering round trip fares for yourself and Mrs. Arthur.

EN ROUTE
PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

May 19, 1940
En route

Dear Mr. King!

We are just coming
into Chicago. We
shall be there in a
very few minutes.

The wedding was
perfect! The church
was packed - over
packed - and we
shook hands and

himself half of Greensburg
before we got away.

The bride was the only
one of us who was
calm and serene through
the whole ceremony —
which we carried off
without a rehearsal!

Everyone is delighted
about our going to
Alaska. We have received
quite a lot of information
from people who have

been there very recently,
so we're well prepared.

The boys from the
seminary "ushered" for
us. They gave us a
garbage car and an
ice pile.

You must come to
see us just as soon as
we return! We are
taking lots of pictures
(some color); keeping an
extensive diary;

and we'll work like
everything - we certainly
appreciate the opportunity
to show how much
we can do.

Love is grand!

Mr & Mrs. Thomas C. Arthur



THE CHARM OF YESTERDAY ~ THE CONVENIENCE OF TODAY

FOURTH AVENUE AT OLIVE

SEATTLE

May 24, 1940

recd 5/27/40

Dear Dr. King:

Ketchikan needs an ice box. Don says we could use one. We saw one in Sears Roebuck this a.m.

- electric - for \$75. which Gene Gould has ok'd - if you think we need one.

If an "ice", instead, ok.

Could you air mail or wire Mr. Gould? They are holding the box 10 days

ALASKA

since we would have
bought ourselves, except
for the shipping charges.

We are able to get it
ourselves if we can sell
it back to the Board at
the end of the summer.

We have had a
delightful visit in
Seattle. It seems next
door to Pittsburgh, somehow.
We are all "itching" to
get started in the morning!
See you in Alaska!

Tom & Lou Jean Arthur

May 28, 1940

Air Mail

Mr. Thomas C. Arthur
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Arthur:

I did not approve of the purchasing of the icebox for the reason that before it could be delivered to you it would be almost time for you to return to the States. I hope that it will not greatly inconvenience you during the summer, and that you will be able to get along without it.

Please be sure to make your contact with Mrs. Swogger at Metlakatla and offer your services there in helping her to conduct the Vacation Bible School.

I trust you are going to give a good account of your stewardship during the summer. I shall look forward with a great deal of interest to the written narrative that you will make of your work.

Most cordially,

HEK:E

ALASKA

May 28. 1940

Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Dr. King:

We have at last arrived.

Last night, after a day of getting settled, the church held a reception for us. We are still surprised over the amazing difference between the conception and the reality of what these people are! It's just like home. Now if we can just manage the church satisfactorily (- for the first time -) for these three months, we'll feel right proud of ourselves! We met Don Christensen who gave us some of the

"ins and outs" so we feel all set. He drove us around Seattle and Tacoma, and showed us some movies he had taken in Ketchikan.

You can imagine what kind of a boat trip we had! "Red" was quite enthusiastic about everything - even about getting searick. I'd like to know how ~~he~~ he's getting along on the gulf! The Armstrongs are very nice. We had quite a nice visit before we started, since we stayed in the same hotel in Seattle.

Today we are picking
up as far as possible the
business end of things.

The bank account, post office
box - newspapers - and so on.

I understand there is some
kind of a form we are to
fill out. We have our pen
and ink all ready.

Sincerely yours.

Mr & Mrs. Thomas C. Arthur.

many of
the things
mentioned
above
are for
the year
1911
and will
be
sent
you

June 1. 1940

Ketchikan

Alaska.

Dear Dr. King:

We have spent several hours deep in high finance and we find that there is a balance of \$3.44 left out of the check we received from you. This includes my return fare to Pittsburgh from Seattle. I see Jean has a 12 month round trip ticket. It does not include our return fare to Seattle from Ketchikan - I hope Mr. Gould will take care of this when the time arrives - which can be put

off as long as you like, as far as we're concerned!

After talking with all the more important people we could we are fairly well acquainted with the field and the work to be done - but I do think it would be advisable to have the next minister here before we leave. We can do little more than "fill in" and keep things going during the fishing season - yet we hope our evangelistic effort will produce some results. We made a great many acquaintances at the C.E. picnic Thursday (Meklakatha) - some who have never attended before.

Mrs. Swogger hopes that I can come over at least

every other Sunday. You see, due to the fishing season, it will be next to impossible even to charter a boat - expensive - to go to Metlakatla. The best arrangement possible means three ~~to~~ four days in Metlakatla and possibly a whole week - (from mailboat to mailboat).

A plane is far too expensive to even think about.

However, I am putting the matter up to our elders, and somehow I shall try to get over at least for 1 or 2 Sundays - if a boat is available. Planes are \$10 R.T. - hardly!

June 2, 1940
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. King,

We received your letter this evening and I feel that you are due some explanation about the Refrigerator. It was my idea I guess to get it. We saw that they were on sale at Sears in Seattle and after Dan Christensen had told us that there was no refrigeration at the church we at first considered buying it ourselves but the shipping charges back east would have been more than it was really worth as it was such a small one. However after arriving here we realized that it would be possible to do without one. It is a little hard to keep butter and meat but if bought in small quantities that also can be taken care of. so it is quite all right to be without one.

We are thoroughly enjoying our work here. Our first Sunday service was today of course and it, that is, both of them, were very well attended. The members seem so very eager to help in any way and are so anxious to have a permanent minister. We only wish that we could stay permanently. There is really so much to be done. It is our prayer that we can accomplish something here if it is even so little in the short time that we have. If it is only to keep up the enthusiasm that the people seem to show just now so that they will not fall away

If no one comes where we must leave. There are so many
"outside" interests here in Kitchikan as you must know
that where there is no one to lead - well there
isn't much interest in the life of the church.
I am going to start a teacher's training class
for the Sunday school teachers for some of them
seem to be struggling along without quite knowing
what they are teaching nor how to go about it. We
will at least try to do all we can to enable these
people to carry on where we leave and at the
same time try to show them that the Master's
message is a real and vital one.

We have seen Mrs. Snodgrass and also her
son and are trying to arrange some way to help
them. It is difficult to reach Matlaketla as boats
are not regular and fares are expensive to us
often. If Tom should go by boat it would mean
two to three days away from here and we have
so little time and there is much to do. But please
be assured we are doing all we can and
we hope and pray that we will deserve the
faith and trust that you and the Board have
put in us.

Sincerely

Lucinda Hays Arthur.

June 11, 1940

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Arthur
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Arthur:

I was glad to see the letters from you, and am happy you have found your work so inviting and so challenging.

If you will take some good pictures and prepare your lecture, I am quite sure that we can use you in and around Pittsburgh next fall and winter, and possibly other points as well.

In regard to the work at Ketchikan, I hope that you will serve that Church as much as possible, substituting in the absence of Mr. Swogger.

I shall look forward to interesting reports from you from time to time.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

July 2, 1946
Ketchikan
Alaska

Dear Dr. King:

I am sending these reports directly to you - I hope they don't interfere. We didn't begin checking attendance until the second Sunday we were here - and now ~~to~~ we don't like to because there are just a few coming - due (I hope) to the salmon berry picking and the fishing season. Several families have gone camping. Just the same the elders have told me that the services are well attended under the circumstances. Our prayer meetings are especially well attended. There are a few new people coming who, I hope, the new minister can make members of the church. Everyone is wonderfully cooperative.

(over)

We started our Bible School before we went to Metlakatla, and left it in charge of Marge Giblin, who has been an active worker here in the absence of the Christiansen's. We assisted in Metlakatla for two weeks. (Our own school lasted a week). Both were well attended. There were about 20 in Ketchikan and close to 100 in Metlakatla. (Both churches took part). Berry picking interfered somewhat, but did not hamper our objectives. Both were quite successful. We can supply a more detailed report if necessary.

Mr. George Eaton, an elder, is taking me around to pay pastoral calls. With Miss Giblin and Mr. Allen (the Indian Agent) we have already called on some very urgent cases.

I am sorry to have to report that George McKay - an elderly man who has been very faithful and helpful in this church - is very ill -

His niece and nephew, who are supposed to be caring for him, neglect him cruelly. Just this morning I called there with Mr. Allen - to find her in a drunken stupor, her husband in jail for brawling. Three unwashed, wept children were in one cot, Mr. McKay on another (he is utterly helpless - a stroke) and Mrs. Denny (Thomas) on another. The beds were filthy - dishes unwashed - floor covered with dirt - some of it human excrement. It was cold, and the wind and rain blew in through the cracks of his one room, windowless, cabin. I have never seen such suffering. I would rather see a soldier in France in bloody pieces than see the anguish in that man's eyes again! He had had nothing to eat for several days. His body is terribly wasted. There were fish heads lying on the table, floor and porch which had been the only food he

had had at all. Fish heads!

The nurse had said he needed fruit juices - so I had taken some with me. We gave the youngsters a banana and opened some orange juice for him, and put the rest of it under his bed so that his niece would not take it from him.

He gets a \$30 per month pension from the government. It was given to me to pay bills and to get food for him. Nothing can be done about the niece and nephew - they have promised good behavior again and again, but always drink McKays money away as soon as they get their hands on it. We are trying to find him another place to stay, where he can pay for his care out of his pension, but there seem to be no families or persons willing or able to take him in.

Would it be possible to take him to the States somewhere - to a home or something?

P.S. We offered to care for him until he could get along himself. - But the nurse says it will be impossible.

I am sure you will let us know soon,
for if we don't get him away from
there quickly, he will die through this
neglect!

I would also be grateful if you
would write a few words of praise
and encouragement to Mrs. George
Luman of this church. She has
been ~~so~~ very helpful - but she feels
a little discouraged due to some
small antagonism between her and
a few older women of the church.
She is our most able, active and
interested worker among the natives -
a type that must be encouraged
among them if ~~we~~ we are to get rid
of such characters as I have mentioned
above.

Everyone here remembers you,
Dr. King, with love and respect.
We especially want to thank you
for the privilege of being here.

It is hard - but nevertheless interesting.
We really do enjoy working with them.

Jan Jean is in bed with a severe cold, and I am "gargling like mad" to keep it away from me. What a lot of rain! I don't imagine the flood story would go over very well here!

Our first color slides came out beautifully. We are also "collecting" a few from some new friends we have made. We'll be able to lecture all Pittsburgh deaf next fall!

Church bills are paid - and there is \$12.33 in the bank. Ours, too, are paid, except groceries. The check will be most welcome! 7/9/40

Sincerely

Mr & Mrs. Thomas C. Arthur

July 3, 1940
Ketchikan
Alaska

Dear "Uncle Gene"

Who arranges for who to go where when we're ready to go home? Our return passage has not been arranged yet, you know. Reservations should be made soon, I suppose, shouldn't they?

We've been having a delightful time all around. There is much to do, - we're very busy all hours. I hope the summer's work is successful.

It's grand, rough country, but the incessant does bother us now and then - and they have the nerve to tell us this is the driest season they've had in years!

We like everything about
Ketdikan except, of course, the
liquor problem. It's met here
in more ways than one. We had
no idea it was so bad.

We've made a great many
new friends here. We like the
natives very much that come to
our church. We are even learning
to canoe, etc. from them!

Write to us soon, won't
you? Let us know what we
should do about the boat.

Love

The Youngsters

Mrs & Mrs. Thomas C. Arthur

Box 46

July 18, 1940

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Arthur;

Your letter to "Uncle Gene" is in my hands now for an answer. I am here in his office.

Would you be interested in staying in Ketchikan for the next year? You would miss school for one term and then pick it up again this time next year. All the reports I have gotten about your work this summer has been most encouraging. If you could make up your minds to remain for a few more months I am sure that your fathers would bring forth a good harvest. During this summer you have had time to get acquainted with the people and this fall and winter you would be able to carry on some fine programs. Think this thru and I will be glad to hear your decision.

If you decide to return this fall then you make your own reservations there in Ketchikan. I suggest you leave the last week in August or the first week in Septemeber. Notify my office the fare.

Cordially yours,

ALASKA

file

July 22, 1940
Ketchikan
Alaska

Dear Dr. King:

We both realize the need of these people, yet we feel it very necessary to return to Pittsburgh this fall. I am hoping that you have someone in mind to "take over" when we leave, at the close of the fishing season, about September first.

We appreciate the opportunity we have had here - and we hope our work has been - or will be - worth the investment. We shall look forward to a visit with you in the coming year.

Sincerely
Thomas C. Arthur

August 27, 1940

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Arthur
Western Theological Seminary
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Arthur:

I thank you for the interesting report that you sent to me about the work in Ketchikan.

From many different sources I have heard of the encouraging work that you did while there. I feel that the money we invested will pay dividends.

I expect to be through Pittsburgh on September 6th or 7th, and would like to say "Hello" to you.

Cordially yours,

ESK:E



WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PITTSBURGH, PA.

October 7, 1940

Dear Dr. King:

Mrs. Hays tells us we just missed a visit from you. We have been home four weeks now, and what a four weeks! We should have written to you long ago, but we have been very busy finding a new home, and starting school. On top of that, the change from the clear air of the West to the smoke of the East had its ill effects. However, I am all "smoked up" now, and ready to study in earnest.

We have about fifty or sixty, ^{72 really} slides in color of scenes around Ketchikan, and although they are themselves unusually fine, they are not adequate to present a full picture of Alaskan work. I hope the Board has some slides on hand. However, Lou Jean has ~~given~~ given several talks on our work in Greensburg. Her fifth talk is to be given Wednesday at the Presbyterian church, and there is another date coming up. Everyone is very much interested in everything we have to say, and telling them is like living over again the varied experiences we had in Ketchikan. What a time we had! I couldn't begin to tell you all about it in a letter - it would run on and on for pages and pages. But let



WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PITTSBURGH, PA.

me tell you , that although we accomplished very little (we could do little more than "keep the door open") we did enjoy every moment of our stay. To work with them, and talk with them, and to live among them was one of the most uplifting and inspiring experiences either one of us have ever had. It was disappointing and dull many times, but at least it made us want to "do things". Our only regret is that our stay was during the fishing season and summer months, when church activity was at its lowest. Just the same, we feel that we left behind us many friends, whom we shall always remember.

There was our work at Metlakatla. With the Swoggers, we helped in what we considered a very successful Bible School. I wish you could have heard them sing the camp songs we learned in the states! Every time the "Metlakatlans" came to Ketchikan, they came to church or dropped in on us for a visit. The children especially remembered us whenever they met us on the street.

There were the Eatons. They are the grandest people in the church, and although Mr. Eaton is no longer able to conduct services, his example stands before them , and his advice is sound and sure.



WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Irene and George Inman were intimate friends of ours. Irene is very helpful, in the face of criticism which comes from ~~some~~ of the older women. When we left, she promised to help Mrs. Peale with the Sunday School and the choir.

Mrs. Reece, who met with a severe automobile accident this summer, is once again well and happy. For a week we did not expect her to live - no one did - but suddenly she took a turn for the better, and even managed to come to our services the last three Sundays! Johnny was disappointed because he ~~didn't~~ couldn't go to Sitka, but they are saving what they can to send him next year. He would come up and talk with us for hours - Irene said that he never talked much to anyone before. He is very self conscious about his deafness.

We tried hard to do something about Mary Denny, but failed. Mr. Allen and I were after her all the time about her father, George McKay. Mr. Allen finally engineered him into a home, where he will be properly cared for all the rest of his life. As for the Dennys, being deprived of Mr. McKay's pension check might bring them to their senses.



WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Astrid and Jack Faulkner became great friends. He attended every service during the summer.

Leonard Allen, the Agent in charge of Indian Affairs, is very cooperative with the Presbyterians. In fact, without him we would have been lost. I know that the new minister will find in him a fine helper in his work. We were greatly disappointed in Mr. Beck, however.

We had only three Sundays in Metlakatla, with two services each time. The rest of our time we spent in Ketchikan, holding two Sunday services, and a prayer service during the week. These were fairly well attended, in spite of the season. We felt it necessary to leave all church matters in the hands of Mrs. Peale, a white member, and Mr. Eaton, an elder. These, with the help of Mr. Jensen and Irene Inman and such others as have helped in the past, will keep the church affairs going until the new minister arrives - and they need him as soon as he can get there.

The matter of the "Princeton" came up almost every week - and judging purely from opinions, they seem to miss it very much. I felt it was none of my business, so I said little, but a boat would solve many of their minor problems, and as far as presbytery meetings are concerned, I imagine it



WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PITTSBURGH, PA.

is of great importance.

The church is in a bad location for effective work. There were several whites who said that their only objection to the Presbyterian church was its location. They didn't seem to mind the native attendance a great deal. I'll tell you more about this when I see you - it's rather complicated. I suppose you have seen Miss Ogg - I told her quite a bit about it.

We are in love with the West (it rains too much in Alaska) and we hope that some day we can find a college out there that needs a professor to teach Bible. We'll never forget the beauty of Washington and Oregon. The experience we have had came as a Godsend, in a way, and we appreciated every moment. We feel we ought to thank you personally.

We hope to see you soon - as soon as possible - we have so much to talk about. Until then,

Sincerely yours,

Joan and Ian Jean

October 10, 1940

Mr. Thomas C. Arthur
Western Theological Seminary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Arthur:

Your letter of October 7 has been received during Dr. King's absence from the office on a field trip. We shall be glad to bring it to his attention upon his return the latter part of this month.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. King

HEW:DH